

Address, Kodaikamal, India.
July 21, 1924.

Dear Hew

To My Companions in Life's Climb,

So behind am I with my letters that the day on which I turn over a fresh page of my life seems a fitting time to make an effort to catch up. Since I'm not sure when your birthday comes, why not broadcast greetings on mine?

The most important news is my engagement to Eleanor Gibbons, Principal of the Presbyterian High School at Kolhapur, in the Southern Mahratta country south of Bombay. She's a charming girl and glorious Christian. I constantly wonder that she has been willing to throw in her life with mine. We met at Kodaikanal on Easter Day and managed to see a little of each other during the following month, even though I attended two and a half hours of Tamil Language Class every day and had preparation to make in addition. Eleanor had to leave Kodaikanal the end of May to start the girls at Kolhapur on a new school year. After a separation of a month and a half, I'm visiting this picturesque city of Kolhapur, the capital of an Indian State and the residence of the Maharajah.

It was just a year ago today that I left New York for regular Christian service in India, on my way having three and a half weeks of glorious fellowship with Frank Buchman, Sherry Day, Sam Shoemaker and other warm friends in England and the continent. From the middle of September to the end of the year I was in our Arcot Assembly area in South India, west of Madras, studying Tamil, revising my doctoral thesis for Columbia University on Village Schools in India (which the Association Press of Calcutta has agreed to publish) and doing direct Christian work as there was opportunity. In January I had the privilege of attending the historic occasion when the Arcot Mission formally handed over its

functions as an administrative body to the Arcot Assembly which includes as many Indian Christians as missionaries and is organized in four boards to deal with evangelistic, educational, medical and economic questions. This was the inauguration of a new era of partnership and loyal co-operation for the religion of God's will in the life of our part of India.

From the middle of January to the present I've been studying Tamil in the Language School at Kodaikanal, which is over 7,000 feet above sea level and one of the most delightful spots on the face of God's Earth. But I spent three weeks in February visiting the very remarkable village educational work of the most progressive kind that Mr W J. McKee has been conducting in the Punjab. During part of our two week's vacation in June I was camping on the hills some miles from Kodai. Soon after my language examinations the end of November, Eleanor and I plan to be married at Kolhapur and expect to work under the Arcot Assembly for the improvement and reform of village education.

Do you know these lines from Fredric Myers' Saint Paul?

"Yea thro' life, death, thro' sorrow and thro' sinning
He shall suffice me, for he hath sufficed;
Christ is the end, for Christ was the beginning,
Christ the beginning, for the end is Christ".

With the best of cordial wishes, I am,

Yours sincerely,

Mason Olcott.

Hope all's going swimmingly with you. That was a mighty nice glimpse I had of your home in 1917. Mother & Katherine are coming out for the wedding Dec. 2.